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ABSTRACT

This book offers alternative approaches for local hiking events, such as creating extensive science, math or art projects, in order to energize a group of children. Chapter 1, "Getting Started," provides details on planning a hike, including getting supports, managing materials, setting the tone, questioning techniques, basic ecological concepts, safety, group management, follow-up, and evaluation. Chapter 2 explains how to record observations in an individual or group nature notebook. Chapters 3-12 describe specific theme hikes for elementary students. Each chapter follows the same format of setting the tone, preparation, trail activities, wrap-up, extensions (additional thematic activities), and book links (fiction, poetry, and nonfiction supplementary readings). Hike themes include color in nature, how animals use their sense of smell, natural sounds, textural differences of natural objects, bird watching, trees, weather, how rocks reveal Earth's history, treasure hunt, and conservation. Chapter 13 gives detailed instructions for designing a hike: (1) collecting topics based on science and social studies areas; (2) collecting ideas connected with the chosen topic; (3) focusing on practical ideas, needed materials, time requirements, and group management; (4) step-by-step notes for routes, stops, and activities; and (5) leader evaluation. (SAS)

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